

Remarks

Claims 1-10, 12-41, 43-64 and 66-69 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 42, 65 and 70-77 previously were canceled. Independent Claims 1, 18, 34, and 48, and dependent Claims 13-15 are amended herein. Claims 12, 17, 33, 47, 63, 64, and 66-69 are canceled herein.

The Office Action states that dependent Claims 17, 33, 47 and 63 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of dependent Claim 17, and to delete limitations added by the previous Amendment. Claim 17 has been canceled. Independent Claim 18 has been amended to include all the limitations of dependent Claim 33, and to delete limitations added by the previous Amendment. Claim 33 has been canceled. Independent Claim 34 has been amended to include all the limitations of dependent Claim 47, and to delete limitations added by the previous Amendment. Claim 47 has been canceled. Independent Claim 48 has been amended to include all the limitations of dependent Claim 63, and to delete limitations added by the previous Amendment. Claim 63 has been canceled. Independent Claim 64 and dependent Claims 66-69 also have been canceled.

Claims 64 and 66-68 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sturman** et al. Though Applicant believes that Claims 64 and 66-68 are patentable over **Sturman**, Claims 64 and 66-68 have been cancelled to expedite allowance of other claims in the application. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 64 and 66-68 is moot.

Claims 1-10, 12-15, 18-31, 34-41, 43-46 and 48-61 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Bosko** in view of **Sturman**. Claim 12 has been canceled. Independent Claim 1 (and thus also dependent claims 2-9 and 13-10) now includes the limitations of allowable claim 17. The Office Action states that dependent Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejections of Claims 1-9 and 13-15 have been made moot by the amendment to Claim 1. Similarly, Independent Claim 18 (and thus also dependent claims 19-32) now includes the limitations of allowable claim 33. The

Office Action states that dependent Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejections of Claims 18-31 have been made moot by the amendment to Claim 18. In addition, Independent Claim 34 (and thus also dependent claims 35-41 and 43-46) now includes the limitations of allowable claim 47. The Office Action states that dependent Claim 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejections of Claims 34-41 and 43-46 have been made moot by the amendment to Claim 34. Furthermore, Independent Claim 48 (and thus also dependent claims 49-61) now includes the limitations of allowable claim 47. The Office Action states that dependent Claim 47 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejections of Claims 48-61 have been made moot by the amendment to Claim 48. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 1-9, 13-15, 18-31, 34-41, 43-46, and 48-61 be withdrawn.

Claims 16, 32 and 62 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Bosko** as modified by **Sturman** as applied to claims 18 and 48, and further in view of **McCann** et al. Independent Claim 1 (and thus also dependent claim 16) now includes the limitations of canceled claim 17. The Office Action states that dependent Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejections of Claim 16 has been made moot by the amendment to Claim 1. Similarly, Independent Claim 18 (and thus also dependent claim 32) now includes the limitations of canceled claim 33. The Office Action states that dependent Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejection of Claim 32 has been made moot by the amendment to Claim 18. In addition, Independent Claim 48 (and thus also dependent claim 62) now includes the limitations of canceled claim 63. The Office Action states that dependent Claim 63 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that the rejection of Claim 62 has been

made moot by the amendment to Claim 48. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 16, 32 and 62 be withdrawn.

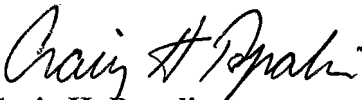
Conclusion

The Applicant believes that claims 1-10, 13-16, 18-32, 34-41, 43-46, and 48-62 are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If any issue remains unresolved, however, the Applicant's attorney welcomes a telephone conference to resolve any such matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4/5/2007

File No.: U43142 1010.1